

West Virginia



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For information about water quality in West Virginia, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

West Virginia reported that 46% of their surveyed river and stream miles have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses, and 73% fully support swimming. In lakes, 32% of the surveyed acres have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses and 100% fully support swimming.

Metals and siltation are the most common water quality problems in West Virginia's rivers and lakes. Fecal coliforms, oxygen-depleting substances, and acidity also impair a

large number of river miles. In lakes, siltation, oxygen-depleting substances, acidity, toxics, nutrients, and algal blooms also impair a significant number of acres. Agriculture impaired the most stream miles, followed by abandoned mine drainage and forestry activities. Abandoned mine drainage was the leading source of degraded water quality in lakes, followed by forestry and agriculture.

West Virginia reported that fish consumption advisories are posted for the Kanawha River, Pocatalico River, Armour Creek, Ohio River, Shenandoah River, North Branch of the Potomac River, the Potomac River, and Flat Fork Creek. Five of the advisories were issued because of elevated dioxin concentrations in bottom feeders. The other advisories address PCBs and chlordane in suckers, carp, and channel catfish.

Ground Water Quality

West Virginia ranked mining and mine drainage as the highest priority source of ground water contamination in the State, followed by municipal landfills, surface water impoundments (including oil and gas brine pits), abandoned hazardous waste sites, and industrial landfills. West Virginia has documented or suspects that ground water has been contaminated by pesticides, petroleum compounds, other organic chemicals, bacteria, nitrates, brine/salinity, arsenic, and other metals.

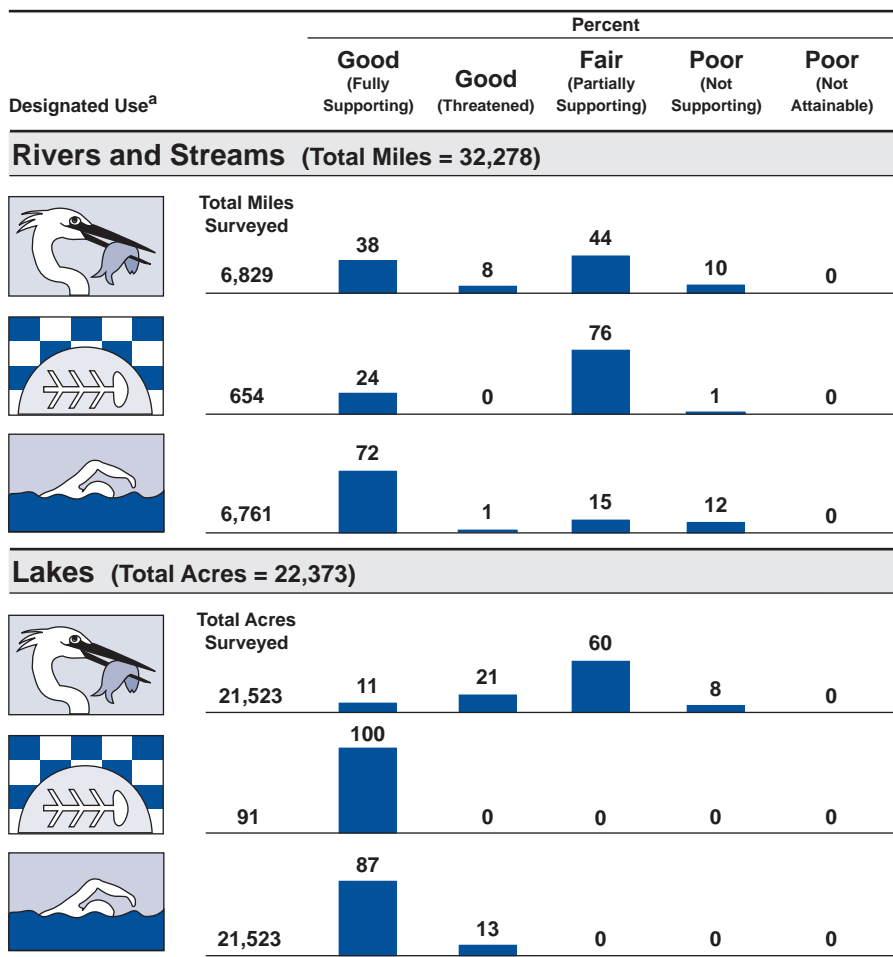
Programs to Restore Water Quality

No information was available from the State.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

No information was available from the State.

Individual Use Support in West Virginia



^a A subset of West Virginia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.